Newspaper Report on MOP Import

1196. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item captioned "PMC halts Yadav move on MOP import" from Germany instead of Russia as published in the Financial Express, dated 17th November, 1995;

(b) whether there is any controversy between the Department of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Ministry of Agricuture over this deal; and

(c) the steps Government have taken so far to ensure that no adverse impact on the farm gate price of this important nutrient Muriate of Potash (MOP) for the Indian farmers takes place apart from temporary shortage and rise in prices etc. prevailing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) Imports of Muriate of Potash (MOP), a decontrolled fertiliser, have been decanalised w.e.f. 17th June, 1993. There is no decision by Government to stop imports of MOP from any source including Russia.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No shortages have been reported of MOP availability in the country during 1995-96. After decontrol and consequent withdrawal of subsidy, the sale price of MOP has gone up. Govt. has been helping the farmers by giving an ad-hoc concession of Rs. 1000/- PMT since 1.10.1992.

Seminar on Education

1197. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a three-day National Seminar on Value-based Education was held in Delhi during September, 1995,

(b) the recommendations made at the Seminar-cum-workshop; and

(c) what action Government propose to take on these recommendations so that a vigorous and effective national action plan for imparting value-based education can be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSITRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) organised a seminar-cum-workshop on Value Education in schools from 7th to 9th September, 1995 in Delhi.

(b) As per the information received from the Board, the seminar highlighted the component of Value Education in existing curriculum for promoting Value Education and covered topics like, practices followed for promoting Value Education in different schools, methodologies for promoting value Education, cultural contents of Value Education and orientation of teachers.

(c) The Board plans to evolve guidance for use in schools based on the recommendations of the seminar.

Agriculture at Par With Industry

1198. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the farmers are demanding that agriculture be treated as industry;

(b) if so, the implications of this demand; and

(c) whether the above demand suggests that land holdings be considered as the capital against which term loans be granted on the lines on which advances are granted to small, middle and big industrialists and that working capital be also granted on the same lines?